

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEHRAN 08922 021354Z

60

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

/070 W

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R 021250Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8938

INFO AMEMBASSY BERN

USMISSION GENEVA

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, IR, SZ

SUB: DIPLOMATS' RECALL

REF: BERN 3916

1. IRANIAN RACTION TO AUGUST 26 SWISS REQUEST FOR RECALL OF IRANIAN FIRST SECRETARY AHMOUD MALEK-MAHDAVI FROM GENEVA WAS SWIFT AND DIRECT. GOI ASKED FOR RECALL OF SWISS THIRD SECRETARY WALTER B. GYGER FROM TEHRAN, GYGER LEFT FOR SWITZERLAND AUGUST 30. (SWISS COUNSELOR TOLD ACTING POLCOUNS GOI INITIALLY REQUESTED RECALL OF SECOND SECRETARY PEDOTTI WHO HAD BEEN TRANSFERRED TWO MONTHS EARLIER.) SFR REPORTS FACT THAT GYGER MADE NO SECRET OF HIS STATUS AS ARMY RESERVE INTELLIGENCE OFFICER MAY HAVE BEEN FACTOR IN DECISION.

2. IRANIAN PRESS HAS SHARPLY ATTACKED SWISS FOR EXPELLING OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN SAID MALEK-MAHDAVI HAD BEEN IN CHARGE OF SECURITY AFFAIRS AND THAT HE HAD BEEN COOPERATING WITH SWISS AUTHORITIES. PRIVATELY MFA OFFICERS CONCEDE MALEK-MAHDAVI WAS PROBABLY A SAVAK OFFICER. THEY OFFERED NO OBJECTION WHEN ACTING POLCOUNS SUGGESTED INCIDENT WAS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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RELATED TO PROBLEMS ARISING IN WAKE OF DISSIDENT IRANIAN

STUDENTS' INVASION OF IRAN'S GENEVA CONSULATE A FEW MONTHS
AGO (REFTEL)

3. COMMENT: EMBASSY BELIEVES MINI-TEMPEST OVER MUTUAL
PNG-ING OF SWISS AND IRANIAN DEPLOMATS IS UNLIKELY TO
SERIOUSLY AFFECT RELATIONS BETWEEN IRAN AND SWITZERLAND.
SWISS EMBASSY IS ALREADY TALKING ABOUT REPLACEMENT FOR GYGER,
AND WHILE IRANIAN PROTESTATIONS OF MALEK-MAHDAVI'S
INNOCENCE CONTINUE, THEY APPEAR TO BE SUBSIDING.
HELMS

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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